

Robert John BRISCOE, *et al.*  
Serial No. 10/593,442  
November 9, 2009

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:**

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The invention relates to data Data networks, [[to]] nodes making up parts of data networks, and [[to]] information relating are related to the characterisation characterization characterization information is arranged to be conveyed to nodes such that it may be used by nodes subsequently forwarding data. In particular, the invention relates to nodes receiving such path characterisation characterization information from upstream nodes, deriving therefrom information indicative of characteristics of a path downstream of said nodes, and using such information to make informed decisions such as routing decisions when forwarding data onward in data networks.